

## WHAT DO EMPLOYERS SAY?



**Alicia Westbrook**  
Director, Mississippi Early  
Childhood Inclusion Center

"Graduate students from the Southern Miss School of Human Development and Family Science are ready for life! This program ensures students are engaged in rigorous learning content and have practicum experiences that transfer knowledge and theory into everyday practice. Hiring Southern Miss alumni has been an asset for our center, as new graduates are ready to be leaders and make a positive difference in the lives of children and families."

# WHERE HEART MEETS SCIENCE— MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

**Unlock your potential, empower children  
and families, and become a leader  
in human development and family science.**

Our program offers flexible online learning,  
high-quality faculty and diverse career opportunities.  
Join us today to make a lasting impact and be the  
change our future generations need.

## MASTER OF SCIENCE **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE**

100% ONLINE

## WHAT DO OUR STUDENTS SAY?



**Rhonda L. Snell, MS, CFLE-P**  
Class of 2022

"At age 60, I found a new love for life and families. As a graduate of the Human Development and Family Science master's program, I have a new zest for life and helping create completely healthy families through advocacy, workshops and mentorship. The HDFS program is filled with wonderful instructors that motivate and energize your passion for learning. If you are interested in teaching or being an advocate for children and families, this is the degree for you! The HDFS degree offers fulfilling careers working with children and family throughout all life cycles."

Contact our graduate program coordinator to learn more.

**Dr. Mariann Taylor**

601.266.4679

Mariann.Taylor@usm.edu



Scan here for more information.



### SCHOOL OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE

[usm.edu/hdfs](http://usm.edu/hdfs)  
601.266.4679

118 College Drive #5035  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406

EOE/VETS/DISABILITY UC87865



**37-HOUR PROGRAM  
NO GRE REQUIRED**



## CHOOSE BETWEEN A THESIS OR PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE

## CHOOSE FROM THREE PATHWAYS



### Community

Work with a community agency/organization in the field of human development and family science.



### Research

Assist a faculty member with a research project or paper.



### Teaching

Assist a faculty member with the preparation/delivery of an online undergraduate course.



### Child Life Specialist

Become a hero to children in challenging circumstances. Our program prepares you to support children and families in health care settings, providing emotional support, play therapy and specialized interventions. Make a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most. Upon degree completion, those seeking to become certified child life specialists must also complete an internship and some additional requirements beyond their studies at Southern Miss.



### Early Childhood Education

Are you passionate about nurturing young minds? Our program offers specialized pathways in early childhood education, allowing you to dive deep into this critical field. Gain a comprehensive understanding of child development, pedagogy and innovative teaching approaches to become a highly sought-after educator. This pathway may lead to licensure in the state of Mississippi.



### Family Life Education

Explore the dynamics of family systems, develop skills in education, and create impactful programs that enhance the well-being of families.

## WHY CHOOSE SOUTHERN MISS?

- **100% Online** - Study from anywhere in the world.
- **Flexible** - Part-time or full-time enrollment available. When enrolled full-time (nine hours per semester), students can finish in just four semesters (part-time takes six semesters to complete).
- **Affordable** - Competitive tuition rates are offered, and we are proud participants in the Tuition Assistance (TA) Gap Program.
- **Accredited** - Our program is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).
- **Dedicated Faculty** - Learn from high-quality faculty who are experts in the field, dedicated to your growth and success.



Invest in Your Future While  
Serving Your Country

TA GAP Funding Available



SACSCOC-Accredited



NCFR-APPROVED: Graduates eligible for CFLE credential